

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Confirmation No.: 1398

Thomas Henry BELL

Group Art Unit: 3753

Serial No.: **10/561,869**

Examiner: Craig M. Schneider

Filed: **December 21, 2005**Customer No.: **34610**For: **IMPROVED VALVE SYSTEM****REPLY TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In reply to the Election Requirement mailed on November 8, 2008, Applicant hereby elects Species B (Figures 4a, 4b and 5, with traverse for further prosecution on the merits. It is respectfully submitted that at least claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14-18, 27 and 28 read on the elected species. It is further respectfully submitted that at least claim 1 is generic to all of the species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of each of the designated inventions is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of each of the designated inventions would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining designated inventions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it states that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the

Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 8, 2008

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